CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1.   (Currently Amended) A transmission system, comprising:

a data management module capable of managing data flow;

a first transmitter module coupled to a transport medium and to the data management module, the transmitter module to contain configuration information specifying at least one predefined transmission characteristic; and

at least an additional transmitter module,

the data management module to access the configuration information to determine the at least one predefined transmission characteristic and to modify data flow management based on the at least one predefined transmission characteristic,

wherein each transmitter module is associated with a different transport medium, and the configuration information is retrieved by the data management module at startup of the first transmitter module or data management module.

2.-12. (Cancelled)

13.   (Currently Amended) The transmission system of claim ~~12~~ 1, the data management module and first transmitter module to continue to exchange configuration information after startup.

14.   (Currently Amended) A transmission system comprising:

a data management program capable of assembling data;

a first transmitter capable of receiving data from the data management program and transmitting the data to a transport medium;

a communication interface between the data management program and the transmitter that enables the data management program and transmitter to negotiate the type of communication to be performed; and

at least another transmitter coupled to at least another transport medium; and

the first transmitter to contain configuration information specifying a characteristic of the transmitter,

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the data management program to access the configuration information of the first transmitter and to modify management of data flow based on the configuration information,

wherein the configuration information comprises at least one of information to indicate if the first transmitter module is able to assign priorities to data, and information to indicate if the first transmitter module is able to perform bandwidth management.

15.-20. (Cancelled)

21.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium storing a program executable by a computer in a transmission system including a first transmitter coupled to a transport medium, the program comprising instructions for causing the computer to:

retrieve stored information to identify at least one transmission characteristic of the first transmitter;

modify data flow management based on the identified at least one transmission characteristic; and

identify a transmission characteristic of at least another transport medium over which data is to be transmitted by at least another transmitter,

wherein the information comprises at least one of information to indicate if the first transmitter module is able to assign priorities to data, and information to indicate if the first transmitter module is able to perform bandwidth management.

22-26. (Cancelled)

27.   (Currently Amended) A method of managing data flow over a transport medium in an interactive transmission system, comprising:

accessing stored configuration information;

identifying, based on the accessed configuration information, at least one transmission characteristic of a first transmitter used to transmit data over the transport medium;

modifying data flow management based on the identified at least one transmission characteristic; and

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identifying a transmission characteristic of at least another transmitter used to transmit data over a different transport medium,

wherein the configuration information comprises at least one of information to indicate if the first transmitter module is able to assign priorities to data, and information to indicate if the first transmitter module is able to perform bandwidth management.

28.-38. (Cancelled)

39.   (Previously Presented) A transmission system, comprising:

a data management module capable of managing data flow; and

a transmitter module coupled to a transport medium and to the data management module, the transmitter module to contain configuration information specifying at least one predefined transmission characteristic,

the data management module to access the configuration information to determine the at least one predefined transmission characteristic and to modify data flow management based on the at least one predefined transmission characteristic, wherein the configuration information is retrieved by the data management module at startup of the transmitter module or data management module.

40.   (Previously Presented) The transmission system of claim 39, wherein the transmission characteristic of the transmitter module varies over time.

41.   (Previously Presented) The transmission system of claim 39, further comprising an interface between the data management module and the transmitter module.

42.-43. (Cancelled)

44.   (Previously Presented) The transmission system of claim 39, wherein the transport medium includes a medium selected from the group consisting of an airwave transmission, a cable transmission, a satellite transmission, a digital television transmission, and a computer network.

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45.   (Previously Presented) The transmission system of claim 39, the data management module and transmitter module to continue to exchange configuration information after startup.

46.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium storing a program executable by a computer in a transmission system including a transmitter coupled to a transport medium and a data management module, the program comprising instructions for causing the computer to:

 retrieve stored information to identify at least one transmission characteristic of the transport medium;

 modify data flow management based on the identified at least one transmission characteristic; and

 cause the data management module and the transmitter to exchange information relating to the transport medium's said at least one transmission characteristic,

wherein the data management module and the transmitter exchange information on a continuous basis,

 wherein the information comprises at least one of information to indicate if the transmitter module is able to assign priorities to data, and information to indicate if the transmitter module is able to perform bandwidth management.

47.-49. (Cancelled)

50.   (Previously Presented) A method of managing data flow over a transport medium in an interactive transmission system, comprising:

 accessing stored configuration information;

 identifying, based on the accessed configuration information, at least one transmission characteristic of a transmitter used to transmit data over the transport medium; and

 modifying data flow management based on the identified at least one transmission characteristic,

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wherein the configuration information comprises at least one of information to indicate if the transmitter module is able to assign priorities to data, and information to indicate if the transmitter module is able to perform bandwidth management..

51.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50, the configuration information to specify one or more of the following:

maximum transfer rate, maximum size of each data packet, and usage of compression.

52.   (Cancelled)

53.   (New) A transmission system, comprising:

a data management module capable of managing data flow;

a first transmitter module coupled to a transport medium and to the data management module, the transmitter module to contain configuration information specifying at least one predefined transmission characteristic; and

at least an additional transmitter module,

the data management module to access the configuration information to determine the at least one predefined transmission characteristic and to modify data flow management based on the at least one predefined transmission characteristic,

wherein each transmitter module is associated with a different transport medium, and the configuration information comprises at least one of information to indicate if the first transmitter module is able to assign priorities to data, and information to indicate if the transmitter module is able to perform bandwidth management.

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